

## Chapter Twenty Five – Elisha Succeeds Elijah

One day the Lord said to Elijah, “I shall be taking you away from this earth in a short time. I have chosen Elisha to succeed you. Go, then, and anoint him as the new prophet.”

So Elijah went on his way and found Elisha ploughing in the field with twelve pairs of oxen. He went up to him and threw his cloak over his shoulders. Elisha knew what that meant. He stopped working and said to Elijah, “Let me first go home and have a last feast before I take leave of my father and mother.”

“Go,” replied Elijah, “I am only carrying out God’s command.”

Elisha went back to the oxen. He killed two of them, cut the plough for firewood and cooked the oxen for the feast. The next morning they both went away. From that time on, Elisha began helping Elijah and learning from him.

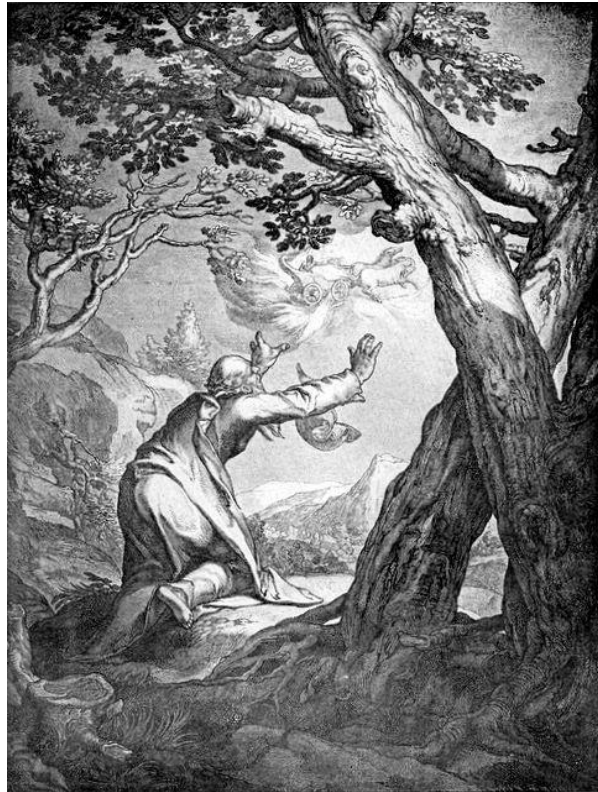
Sometime later, they made their way towards the River Jordan and the desert on the other side. On the journey, Elijah told Elisha that God was taking him away from the earth and that Elisha was to succeed him. “How can I continue your work,” said Elisha, “if I do not have your power? Can you give me your power to perform miracles?”

Elijah replied, “You are making a very difficult request. All right, if you see me going up into heaven and you call out to me, I will drop my cloak and when you wear it you will get my power.”

From that moment Elisha could not sleep. He was afraid even to shut his eyes, so afraid was he that Elijah would suddenly disappear. When they came to the River Jordan, Elijah took his cloak and struck the water three times. The third time the water divided and they crossed over to the desert on the other side. Suddenly, as they were going along, the sound of a rushing wind was heard. A fiery chariot came down and took Elijah to heaven. Elisha cried out in grief, “Teacher! Teacher!” Elijah looked down and dropped his cloak which Elisha picked up and wore, and he inherited the power of Elijah.

With the power inherited from Elijah, Elisha performed a lot of miracles for the needy. Once there was a widow. Her late husband had borrowed a lot of money from others. If she could not pay the money back, the debtor would take away her two sons and sell them as slaves to cover the debt. She came to Elisha and begged him for help. Elisha asked the widow to borrow as many jars as she could and bring them into the house.

When the widow and her sons went into the house, Elisha told them, “Close the door and start pouring oil into the jars until all of them are full.” Amazingly, with one jar of oil, the widow and her two sons were able to fill all the jars. They sold the oil to repay the debts.



*Elisha witnesses Elijah taken up to Heaven*

Questions:

1. How did Elijah anoint Elisha as a prophet?
2. What should Elisha learn from his teacher, Elijah? Give TWO suggestions.
3. What made Elisha think that having the power of Elijah was important for his mission?
4. Why was Elisha afraid to sleep?
5. Why was the widow in debt?
6. Give an example of how you can show generosity to others.